

From: "Hale, Elly"
To: "Wilson, Wenona" <Wilson.Wenona@epa.gov>
Date: 1/11/2021 12:09:01 AM
Subject: Suquamish Tribe -

Hi, Wenona

Wanted to close the loop on the consultation letters for the Lower Duwamish Waterway ESD. As you know, we haven't heard from the Muckleshoot, Suquamish, or Yakama tribes in response to our October 26, 2020 letter.

I spoke to Alison O'Sullivan, fisheries biologist for the Suquamish Tribe, last Thursday 1/7/2021. I noted that we hadn't heard from the Tribe in response to our October letter, but that in response to my reminder email of 12/14/2020 she had sent an email stating:

*Due to COVID-19, our offices are closed and staff is working remotely. Although the Tribe is working on returning response requests, the Tribe cannot commit to the timeframe imposed for a response given the current conditions at the Tribe. The Tribe is working on dozens of permit applications and requests in addition to this one. **A meeting with Tribal staff on the adjusted values (Human Health) and any additional information that was not available at our last meeting would be helpful.** Our offices are closed Christmas to New Year and this week is the last week Denise and I are in the office. If we could set something up in the new year that would be best.*

We spoke about the cPAH ESD. I explained that, unlike the approach in the LDWG memorandum I had initially briefed her on, we would not be dropping cPAH as a COC. The ESD would simply update the levels in the ROD based on the new toxicological values for benzo(a)pyrene. She remembered seeing that in the summary enclosed with the letter.

I mentioned her email from before the holidays and said we would need to know soon if the Tribe wanted to consult, because EPA's letter had requested a response in November and the draft ESD will be ready to issue soon.

She said this wasn't a priority for the Suquamish given other issues the Tribe is facing and recognized that this was a science-based decision, so the Tribe's input probably wouldn't affect the outcome.

Elly



Elly Hale
US Environmental Protection Agency R10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, M/S **12-D12-1**
Seattle, Washington 98101-3188
(206) 553-1215
hale.elly@epa.gov
